

## **HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

January 12, 2006

#### Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman

Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman

Ginny Russell, Selectman Representative

John Bridle, School Board Representative

John Kane, Precinct Representative

Russ Bernstein

Pat Collins

Maury Friedman

William Lally

Eileen Latimer

Jack Lessard

Richard Nichols

Michael Pierce

Charlie Preston

#### Excused

Dick Hansen

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

#### **Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2006**

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Russell, to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2006.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Bridle, Collins). Motion passed.

#### Hampton School Board Article #2 – Increase in Salaries & Benefits

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Warrant Article #2

Article #2 – Increase in Salaries & Benefits	\$360,943
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Jim Gaylord, Superintendent, SAU21, explained the necessary increases in health and life insurance covered by this Article.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 4 no (Friedman, Kane, Pierce, Preston), 1 abstention (Nichols). Motion passed to recommend Article #2.

The Budget Committee work session was then closed.

**Hampton School District**

Chairman Woolsey then opened the Public Hearing on Hampton School Budget Warrant Articles. She reminded everyone that this is for the school year 2006-2007.

Chairman Woolsey said that the Budget Committee had approved the proposed operating budget of \$16,215,752. She then asked for comments from the public.

Article #1 – Operating Budget

No comments.

Article #2 – Increase in Salaries & Benefits

No comments.

Article #3 – Increase in Salaries & Benefits

No comments.

Article #4 – Technology Systems

No comments.

Article #5 – Building Maintenance

Rosemary Lamers of Woodland Road asked for clarification. Mr. Gaylord said that this article is to carry out long term maintenance, repair and modernization work at Hampton's three schools and that Article #6 specifically addresses needs at the Hampton Academy building.

Article #6 – Planners & Architects

No comments.

Article #7 – Sacred Heart School

Rosemary Lamers asked for clarification on how the money in this article is spent. Mr. Gaylord explained that this money comes from the taxpayers, but not from the school budget. David Schwab of the Sacred Heart Advisory Board said that this pays for

benefits for children who go to Sacred Heart School and includes things such as a nurse, additional technology, testing, guidance and psychological testing, supplies and textbooks. This article is intended to bring opportunities up to the same level as in the other schools.

#### Article #8 – New School Administrative Unit

Chairman Woolsey said that the School Board recommends this article, however, since it is not a money article, it is out of the purview of the Budget Committee.

No comments.

The Public Hearing on the School Board budget was closed.

Chairman Woolsey asked the Committee if they wished to take any action on the school budget and warrant articles, revenues and credits. All members of the Committee said that they did not.

The Public Hearing on the Hampton School Budget and Warrant Articles was then closed.

#### **Town of Hampton**

Chairman Woolsey then opened the Public Hearing on the Town of Hampton Operating Budget, Warrant Articles and Revenues.

Chairman Woolsey said that the Budget Committee had recommended an operating budget for fiscal year 2006 of \$23,552,795. This is a level funded budget. Estimated Revenues as approved by the Budget Committee are \$6,343,022.

#### Article 7 – Construction of Fire Department Headquarters Facilities Uptown

Bonnie Searle of Penniman Lane asked if this is an addition or a new building. Hank Lipe, Hampton Fire Chief, said that it is an addition to the existing station. It is an administrative addition plus one bay.

Ms. Searle asked if any consideration had been given to using the old Town Office. Chief Lipe said he could not speak to that. Ms. Searle said she thought using the old Town Office could be beneficial.

Marilyn Wallingford of Winnacunnet Road said that building out on the east side drastically affects her property. Chairman Woolsey said that the Deliberative Session will be the place to work this out. Chairman Woolsey said that something absolutely has to be done about the fire station.

#### Article #8 – Relocation of Old District Courthouse

Ben Moore, Selectman, said that the courthouse is the oldest building in town. He said it will cost less than \$5.00 per taxpayer to save this building. The building is 130 years old and is structurally sound.

Fred Rice of Heather Lane said that he is a member of the Hampton Heritage Commission. That Commission's job is to look at what gives Hampton its history. Saving the oldest building in Hampton is a bargain for \$250,000. It is important to this town's heritage that buildings like this are preserved. He asked if the courthouse were used for administrative space would that amount be deducted from the \$1.7 million designated for construction. Chief Lipe said that it would not.

Ms. Searle said that she was not opposed to preserving this building, but that she was not sure this is the proper way to do it.

#### Article #9 – Town Wastewater Treatment Plant

Elizabeth Webb of Mill Lane said she commended the Committee for recommending this Article. She said it is time to encourage the voters to approve this before the Town gets fined.

Ms. Searle asked if anyone has looked into a new treatment plant. John Hangen, Director of Public Works, said that a new plant would be extremely expensive, and therefore has not been looked at in an effort to stay within the budget.

#### Article #10 – Purchase of Ladder Truck

No Comments.

#### Article #11 – Operating Budget

Judy Beaulieu asked why the Board of Selectmen are not recommending this Article. Ms. Russell said that the majority of the Selectmen felt that they had put forth the minimum budget that was needed to run all the departments. When the Budget Committee came in with a much lower figure, the Board of Selectmen could not support it because it was even below a default budget.

Ms. Beaulieu asked about legal expenses and if this amount also reflects outside attorneys. Ms. Russell said yes.

Glyn Eastman of Lafayette Road asked if the Board of Selectmen can add a percentage amount over the Budget Committee recommendation for the Operating Budget. Chairman Woolsey answered that they can add 10%.

Ms. Searle said the Budget Committee did a good job this year. She said only the bottom line can be addressed and that is what the Budget Committee did.

Article #12 – Exeter Road Bike Path/Road Widening Project

James Barrington, Town Manager, said the State Department of Transportation did not approve the funding for this project for this year. Even if the voters vote this article in, it could not be implemented.

Article #13 – Road Repairs

No comments.

Article #14 – Rebuilding of Tennis and Basketball Courts at Tuck Field

Dan Kenny spoke in favor of this article. He said it is important to encourage exercise and healthy activities.

Article #15 Ashworth Avenue and High Street Parking Lots

Ann Kaiser said that these items should be in the Operating Budget, not in Warrant Articles.

Article #16 – Services to design and prepare cost estimates for Sewer Extension

Fred Rice said if sewer goes into the entire west side, the quality of life will go down. The chances of getting a \$24 million+ bond to put sewer into the entire west side is zero. However, this particular piece of the west side sewer is in an area which is pretty much built out. This will not attract new housing. This can be the first step in a series of steps that will eventually have to be taken.

Article #17 – Repairs to Lane Memorial Library

No comments.

Article #18 – 2006 Children’s Christmas Parade

No comments.

Article #19 – Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit

No comments.

Article #20 – Ambulance Service Revolving Fund

Chairman Woolsey explained how revolving funds work.

No comments.

Article #21 – Recreation Revolving Fund

No comments.

Article #22 – Private Detail Revolving Fund

Chairman Woolsey said that Town Counsel forwarded this article to the Department of Revenue Administration to make sure all requirements were met.

Mark Gerreald, Town Counsel, explained that if the revolving fund articles pass, the Special Revenue Funds would be eliminated.

Article #23 – Purchase and “set up” of new police cruisers (in the event Article #22 is defeated)

No comments.

Article #24 – Discontinuance of Fire Alarm Fund and Town Fire Alarm Service

No comments.

Article #25 – Installation of infrastructure for and/or ornamental street lighting in Hampton Beach Village District

No comments.

Article #26 – Police Forfeiture Fund

No comments.

Article #27 – Hampton Cable TV Local Origination Fund

No comments.

Article #28 – Cemetery Burial Trust fund

No comments.

Social Service Articles

Chairman Woolsey noted that these are all petitioned articles.

No comments.

Article #38 – Supplement for Mosquito Control

Ann Kaiser said it is important that this article pass. She said New Hampshire was first in the nation in 2005 in the number of human cases of Triple E virus. She said if the Town goes to a default budget, there will not be enough money to do what needs to be done in this area.

Article #41 – Matching Funds to Purchase Property on Woodland Road

No comments.

Article #47 – Grave Space at High Street Cemetery

Mr. Kenny said that lot sales are the source of revenue to the trust fund.

Article #49 – Hiring of 8 Additional Firemen

Chief Lipe explained how this addition of personnel would work.

Mike McMahon of Ann's Lane said that this is not a luxury. It is a requirement to provide services to the community. Continuing as we are now, services will have to be cut or overtime will have to be paid. Overtime is a burden to the community and to the employees.

Skip Webb said that when considering overtime vs. hiring, it is actually a savings to hire. He asked the Committee to reconsider.

Victor Demarco of Milburn Avenue spoke in favor of the article. He said so much experience was lost when the cuts were made in March. The Committee needs to reconsider. Chairman Woolsey said that the Budget Committee was not a party to any layoffs.

Glyn Eastman strongly urged the Committee to reconsider this article.

The Public Hearing for the Town of Hampton was closed at 9:34 p.m.

### **Work Session**

Chairman Woolsey opened the final work session.

Article #7 was reconsidered. No motion made.

Article #8 was reconsidered. Mr. Pierce said he did not believe this article is in the taxpayer's best interest. Mr. Friedman said he would rather have a private group undertake this project. No motion made.

Article #9 was reconsidered. No motion made.

Article #11 was reconsidered. No motion made.

Article #12 was reconsidered. No motion made.

It was noted that Article #14 had been recommended to the Public Hearing at the January 10 meeting. The recommendation was incorrect in the handout this evening. Article #14 was reconsidered.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Friedman, to NOT recommend Article #14.

**Vote:** 7 yes, 7 no (Bernstein, Bridle, Kane, Lally, Latimer, Preston, Russell). Motion to NOT recommend Article #14 to the Deliberative session failed for a lack of a majority.

Article #16 was reconsidered. No motion made.

Article #22 was reconsidered. No motion made.

Article #38 was reconsidered. No motion made.



Article #49 was reconsidered.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Ms. Russell, to recommend Article #49 to Deliberative Session.

Ms. Latimer said she did not like the number of firefighters designated in the article, however the Committee absolutely needs to send a message that they do want an increase in personnel. The number cannot be changed at this meeting, but it can be done at the Deliberative Session. Ms. Latimer said she would like a vote on the spirit of the article and take care of the numbers later.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 4 no (Collins, Friedman, Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed to recommend Article #49 to the Deliberative Session.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting will be at Deliberative Session on February 4, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Winnacunnet High School Auditorium. The Public Hearing for the Hampton School District will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, at Winnacunnet High School. The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 21, for a review of the Beach Precinct Operating Budget, Revenues and Special Money Articles.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman

